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CIA Secrecy Is Steady Source of Controversy

The shadowy business of the Central Intelligence Agency, by its nature, demands secrecy. But in a finger-pointing, probe-conscious democracy there is constant pressure to lift the lid and have a look.

Scarcely a day — or a coup — goes by that someone, somewhere does not accuse the CIA of murder or kidnaping, or bombing or blackmail or bribery or masterminding this in Tanzania or bungling that in Singapore—all the while strewing American dollars hither and yon.

Since it is inherent in an intelligence apparatus not to confirm or deny anything, the claims, rumors and charges leave the public confused as to whether the agency is exceedingly good — or bad.

The fact that it cannot answer for itself makes the CIA fair game for the wildest of charges and only occasionally does this iceberg of espionage surface: such as the U2 flights over the Soviet Union and the Bay of Pigs invasion.

What the CIA does concerns not only the Kremlin. It also concerns a number of critics in the United States. To them the CIA has gone too far into areas of foreign policy, has gone too far into the woodwork to be properly monitored by the gov-



DEAN RUSK
 'Back Alley War'

ernment it serves, has dealt low blows to our 'we-fight-fair-why-don't-the-others-image'.

Has it?

The CIA has many spies, few spokesmen. It doesn't talk. But a typical sampling of allegations which have been published in books and newspapers and which are part of the accepted picture of the CIA in many parts of the world provides such as the following:

Allegation 1:

—Two Syrians testified an

American Embassy official offered them \$2 million if they could deliver a Soviet naval patrol boat and its rockets to Cyprus. He was asked to leave the country. They were hanged.

Allegation 2:

—The CIA has rigged elections in Laos. And an American newsman said he saw Communist and CIA agents literally bumping into each other while visiting Congolese parliamentarians to buy votes during a crucial vote of confidence.

CIA agents adulterated a shipment of sugar aboard a Soviet freighter docked in Puerto Rico. The aim was to sour the Soviet sweet tooth on Cuban sugar. President John F. Kennedy became angered when he learned of it, and the sugar thereupon was destroyed by a mysterious fire.

The activities of the CIA, in fact or myth, mark the great distance U.S. intelligence has come from simpler pre-cold war days.

As recently as 1929 then Secretary of State Henry Stimson disbanded the department's "Black Chamber" code-breaking operation saying, "Gentlemen do not read each other's mail." Less than two decades before the U2 and the Samos spy satellites, the government was asking its citizenry to send

in any postcard it might have of Pacific scenes to aid the war against Japan.

Just how much the United States may be spending on intelligence a year is anybody's guess. There are few estimates that go below \$2 billion.

Who needs it?

The United States, says Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who adds that a "back alley war" is going on all over the world. To spurn its sordid, ruthless stealth runs the risk of falling victim to it.

"We cannot safely limit our response to the Communist strategy of take-over solely to those cases where we are invited in by a government," wrote former CIA chief Allen Dulles. "We ourselves must determine where and how to act."

The command of this line of defense hides behind unmarked, pastel-hued doors in a woods-encircled, king-size new building in Langley, Va., outside Washington. It is anonymous save for the carved inscription "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make ye free." No signs lead to CIA headquarters although its emblem, an eagle surrounded with the words "Central Intelligence Agency," is massively inlaid on the terrazzo floor inside the front entrance.